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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Central Intelligence Bulletin

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: SEP 2001

~~Top Secret~~

[redacted]

C 207

13 September 1972

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[redacted]

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EGYPT - WEST GERMANY: Cairo's hopes for broadening ties with Western Europe have been clouded by the Munich incident and resultant strains in Egyptian - West German relations.

Egypt's initial public reaction to the events in Munich was guarded, but Cairo was quick to react negatively to West German charges that it had not fully cooperated with Bonn.

The newly arrived German ambassador was summoned on 7 September for clarification of his government's position. Egyptian media also launched a hostile barrage against Bonn for making what Cairo considered false allegations about the Egyptian position and condemned West Germany for having set a trap for the fedayeen.

In spite of some attempts by both sides to reduce the strains in their relations, serious frictions have remained. A visit to Bonn by the Egyptian foreign minister scheduled for later this month has been postponed, and the presentation of the credentials of the West German ambassador in Cairo has been delayed for five days. Moreover, an Egyptian spokesman announced that Cairo had found Bonn's explanation of the Munich incident and its aftermath "unacceptable." The meeting in Cairo yesterday of the West German ambassador and the Egyptian foreign minister, however, may have rectified some of the issues between the two countries. According to the influential newspaper, al-Ahram, Egypt hopes for improved relations with West Germany. The article indicates that both countries are making an effort to paper over the dispute. The Egyptian cabinet is scheduled to discuss the situation today.

Before the Munich incident Cairo was clearly interested in strengthening relations with Western Europe, including Bonn. Egypt has looked to these countries as sources of economic aid, political support in the confrontation with Israel, and as potential suppliers of some military equipment. In particular, Cairo had hoped to rally West European

support at the UN General Assembly session later this month. These considerations evidently have taken second place, however, to reacting against what the Egyptian leadership almost certainly sees as another Western assault on its "dignity." Egypt will not directly condemn the acts of the Palestinian groups, and it continues to lay the ultimate blame for the terrorism on Israel. [redacted]